Article 130 of the Constitution provides that, "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint." No proposal has been received from the Chief Justice of India in this regard.

No representation has been received for the establishment of a Bench of the Guwahati High Court at Dibrugarh.

National Equity Fund for small scale Industries

1227. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start a National Equity Fund to promote small scale industries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being finalised.

Closure of post offices in Bihar

1228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close down 20 post offices in Patna town area alone and more than 300 post offices, in the whole of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of Post offices in Bihar closed down during the Sixth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Post Office was closed in Bihar during the Sixth Plan Period.

Non-conventional energy sources

1229. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) how the costs of energy generation from wind, solar photovoltaic system, biogas, urban wastes, etc. compare on an average with those of the energy generation from hydel, thermal and nuclear systems; and

(b) the specific results achieved through steps for promotion of modes of energy generation from alternative sources?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) While the exact cost of power generation from renewable non-conventional energy sources differs from site to site, it would, on an average generally compare favourably in real terms with the cost of generation from hydel, thermal and nuclear systems. The cost of generation from solar photovoltaic systems is at present higher than that of the conventional systems. However, the difference between the cost would again vary from site to site.

(b) As a result of the programmes sponsored by the Government, more than 6 lakh biogas plants are generating energy for domestic purposes equivalent to an annual saving of more than 25 lakhs tonnes of wood valued at Rs. 100 crores and giving fertilizer output of 1.20 crore tonnes valued at Rs. 100 crores annually. In addition to this, 5 demonstration wind farm projects with an aggregate capacity of 3.3 MW have been established. A pilot plant with a capacity of 3.75 MW based on incineration of urban solid waste is under construction in Delhi. A 50 KW solar thermal power plant is under installation. Electric power for street lighting and community purposes has been provided to more than 250 villages through photovoltaic systems.